

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 28, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-18, and 20-21 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3-11 stand rejected. Claims 12-18 and 20-21 are allowed. Claims 2, 7, 8, and 19 have been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Falk (U.S. Pat. No. 4,735,470) is respectfully traversed.

Falk describes a combination slidable storage assembly (30) disposed beneath at least one shelf assembly (20). Each shelf includes cantilevered support brackets (22). A pair of transverse bars (36) are affixed at each end to a corresponding portion of the support brackets. A groove (44) extends along a runner (42) and a front end of the groove includes an integral vertical projection (45). The projection engages with stop members (51) on flanges (49). Notably, Falk does not describe nor suggest a horizontal aperture extending through either of the lower or upper portions of the ledge.

Claim 1 recites a system for limiting outward movement of a slide-out shelf, wherein the shelf includes at least one stop tab, the system including, among other things, “a plurality of side supports configured to support the shelf, each said side support comprises a ledge comprising a rear portion having a first width sufficient to retain the rear tab, wherein said forward portion is configured to provide a clearance for the rear tab and to further provide a clearance portion having a third width less than said second width, wherein said clearance portion is configured to provide a clearance for the forward stop tab....”

Falk does not describe nor suggest a system for limiting outward movement of a slide-out shelf as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Falk does not describe nor suggest a side support including a ledge including a rear portion having a first width sufficient to retain a rear tab, a forward portion having a second width sufficient to retain a forward stop tab,

wherein the forward portion is configured to provide a clearance for the rear tab and to further provide a clearance portion having a third width less than the second width, wherein the clearance portion is configured to provide a clearance for the forward stop tab. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Falk describes a ledge including a consistent width throughout and a groove that extends the entire length of the ledge. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Falk.

Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 3-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 3-6 likewise are patentable over Falk.

Claim 9 recites a method for assembling a shelf assembly including a shelf and at least one side support including, among other things, “positioning at least one forward tab and at least one rear tab extending outwardly from the shelf . . . positioning at least one side support including a laterally projecting ledge including at least one side support whereby the ledge includes a clearance defined through the ledge and sized to receive the forward tab a rear portion having a first width sufficient to retain the at least one rear tab and a forward portion having a second width less than the first width, wherein the forward portion provides a clearance for the at least one rear tab . . . positioning a clearance portion in the forward portion having a third width less than the second width, wherein the clearance portion provides a clearance for the at least one forward tab . . .”

Falk does not describe nor suggest a method for assembling a shelf assembly as recited in Claim 9. More specifically, Falk does not describe nor suggest positioning at least one side support including a laterally projecting ledge including at least one side support whereby the ledge includes a clearance defined through the ledge and sized to receive the forward tab a rear portion having a first width sufficient to retain the at least one rear tab and a forward portion having a second width less than the first width, wherein the forward portion provides a clearance for the at least one rear tab and positioning a clearance portion in the forward portion having a third width less than the second width, wherein the clearance

portion provides a clearance for the at least one forward tab. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Falk merely describes a ledge including a consistent width throughout and a groove that extends the entire length of the ledge. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 9 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Falk.

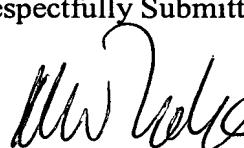
Claims 10-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 9. When the recitations of Claims 10-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 10-11 likewise are patentable over Falk.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Falk (U.S. Pat. No. 4,735,470) in view of Kolbe et al. ("Kolbe") (U.S. Pat. No. 5,340,209) is respectfully traversed. Claim 8 has been canceled. For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael W. Noble
Registration No. 55,501
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070